

MARVEL
LIMITED SERIES
3 of 5

BENDIS
REED
CHEUNG
MORALES

THE NEW AVENGERS®

ILLUMINATI™



THE NEW AVENGERS ILLUMINATI

The Illuminati is a secret organization comprised of several of the world's most powerful heroes: Sorcerer Supreme Doctor Strange; Black Bolt, King of the Inhumans; Charles Xavier, founder of the X-Men and mutant rights activist; Reed Richards, founding member of the Fantastic Four; Namor, the Sub-Mariner, Ruler of Atlantis; and Iron Man, founding member of the Avengers.

These six men have worked together to shape the superhuman world. To keep the trust between the group members, the Illuminati's existence has been kept secret from everyone, including the members' teammates and families.

What they've done together has remained a mystery...until now...



Years ago, a mysterious entity known as the Beyonder picked up heroes and villains from Earth and pitted them against each other on the faraway Battleworld in order to better understand human emotion. Those who were taken banded together and escaped the Battleworld, leaving the Beyonder alone...

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I
AM FROM
BEYOND!

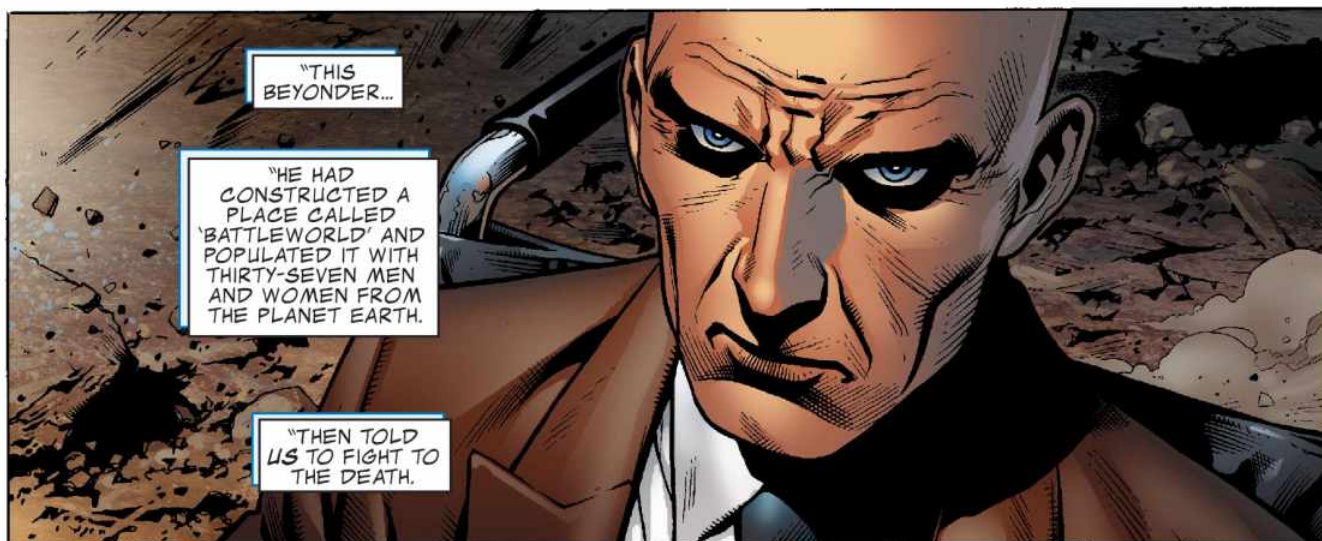
"I WASN'T
SURE WHAT
IT WAS."



"I'D NEVER FELT
ANYTHING LIKE
IT BEFORE."



SLAY YOUR
ENEMIES AND
ALL YOU DESIRE
SHALL BE
YOURS!



"THIS
BEYONDER..."

"HE HAD
CONSTRUCTED A
PLACE CALLED
'BATTLEWORLD' AND
POPULATED IT WITH
THIRTY-SEVEN MEN
AND WOMEN FROM
THE PLANET EARTH."

"THEN TOLD
US TO FIGHT TO
THE DEATH."



NOTHING
YOU DREAM OF
IS IMPOSSIBLE
FOR ME TO
ACCOMPLISH!



"I COULD HAVE STOPPED IT."

"ONE PSYCHIC COMMAND AND I COULD HAVE MADE EVERY ONE OF THEM GO TO SLEEP."

"THEN REED RICHARDS AND I COULD SORT IT ALL OUT AND FIND A WAY HOME."

"BUT IF THIS BEYONDER HAD THE POWER TO GATHER US..."

"I HAD TO ASSUME IT HAD THE POWER TO RETALIATE IF I INTERFERED."

"FOR ALL I KNEW, IT MIGHT WELL HAVE WIPE OUT THE HUMAN RACE IN A FIT OF TANTRUM."



"THEN I FELT
SOMETHING
ELSE."

"SOMETHING--
SOMETHING ALMOST
MUTANT IN NATURE."



"SO I
REACHED
OUT."

"I ATTEMPTED TO TOUCH
THE BEYONDER'S MIND AND--
AND IT SWALLOWED ME."

"BEFORE I COULD--THIS IS
DIFFICULT TO DESCRIBE, BUT
BEFORE I COULD EVEN
COMPREHEND WHAT WAS
HAPPENING, THE BEYONDER
HAD PULLED ME INSIDE ITS
CONSCIOUSNESS."

"(I DON'T KNOW HOW
ELSE TO EXPLAIN IT.)"



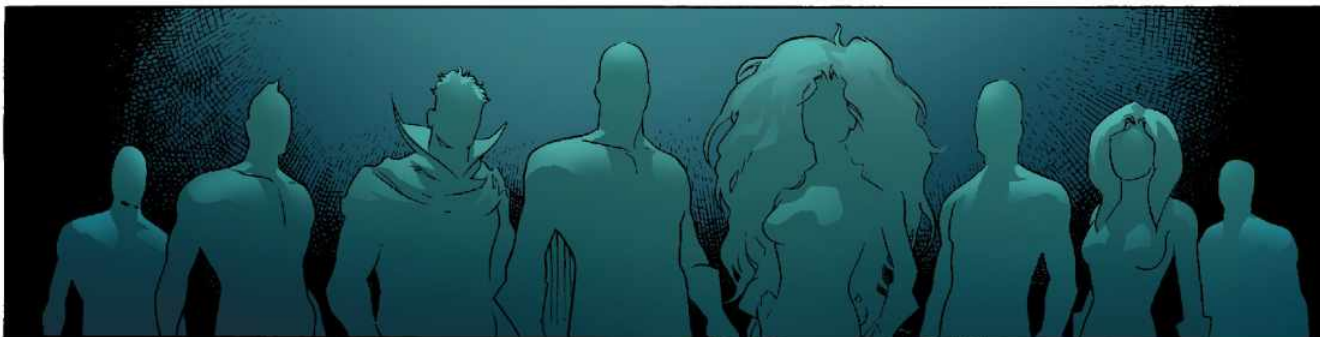
"IT--THIS WAS NOT
THE GALACTIC ENTITY
IT WAS PRESENTING
ITSELF TO BE."

"NO."

"IT--HE WAS
SOMETHING
ELSE."

"SOMETHING...
LESS."

WHO
ARE YOU?



"HE WAS
SHOWING ME
SOMETHING."

"AT FIRST,
I WAS...
CONFUSED."

"BUT THEN
I KNEW..."



"I KNEW
EXACTLY WHAT
I WAS SEEING..."



THE
BEYONDER IS
AN INHUMAN.

REALLY?

BUT NOT ONLY
WAS THE BEYONDER
AN INHUMAN, I BELIEVE
HE WAS ALSO A
MUTANT.

ATTILAN, HIDDEN CITY OF THE INHUMANS.
BLUE AREA OF THE MOON.

A MUTANT
INHUMAN.

SO IT MUST
BE SURMISED
THAT--

HE HAD A
GENETIC ANOMALY
BEFORE HE ENTERED
THE TERRIGEN MISTS.

THE MISTS THAT
GIVE THE INHUMANS
THEIR INHUMAN
ABILITIES.

AND WHEN
HE WENT IN, THE
RESULT WAS...

UNTHINKABLE.

UNPRECEDENTED.

CAN AN
INHUMAN BE
A MUTANT?

I AM
SAYING
YES.

BLACK BOLT
KING OF THE INHUMANS.



NAMOR
RULER OF ATLANTIS.

OKAY,
BUT AT THIS
POINT...

...WHY
CALL A
MEETING?



**PROFESSOR
CHARLES XAVIER**
LEADER OF THE
UNCANNY X-MEN.

BECAUSE,
FOR THE LAST
SEVERAL DAYS,
I HAVE BEEN
FEELING A...

("PRESENCE"
IS TOO STRONG
A WORD.)

BUT HE
IS NEAR. AGAIN.



AND I THINK WE,
AS A GROUP, SHOULD
ATTEMPT TO HANDLE
THIS QUICKLY AND
QUIETLY.

BEFORE
HE GETS TO US,
WE SHOULD GO
TO HIM.



MR. FANTASTIC
LEADER OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR.

BUT I'VE HAD
THE BAXTER BUILDING'S
INTERDIMENSIONAL SENSORS
ON THE LOOKOUT FOR THE
BEYONDER EVER SINCE
THE BATTLEWORLD
IDIOCY.

BE
THAT AS IT
MAY...



**DOCTOR
STRANGE**
MASTER OF THE MYSTIC ARTS.

BLACK BOLT,
DO YOU KNOW
WHO HE IS?

BLACK
BOLT SAYS HE HAS
THOUSANDS UNDER
HIS RULE.



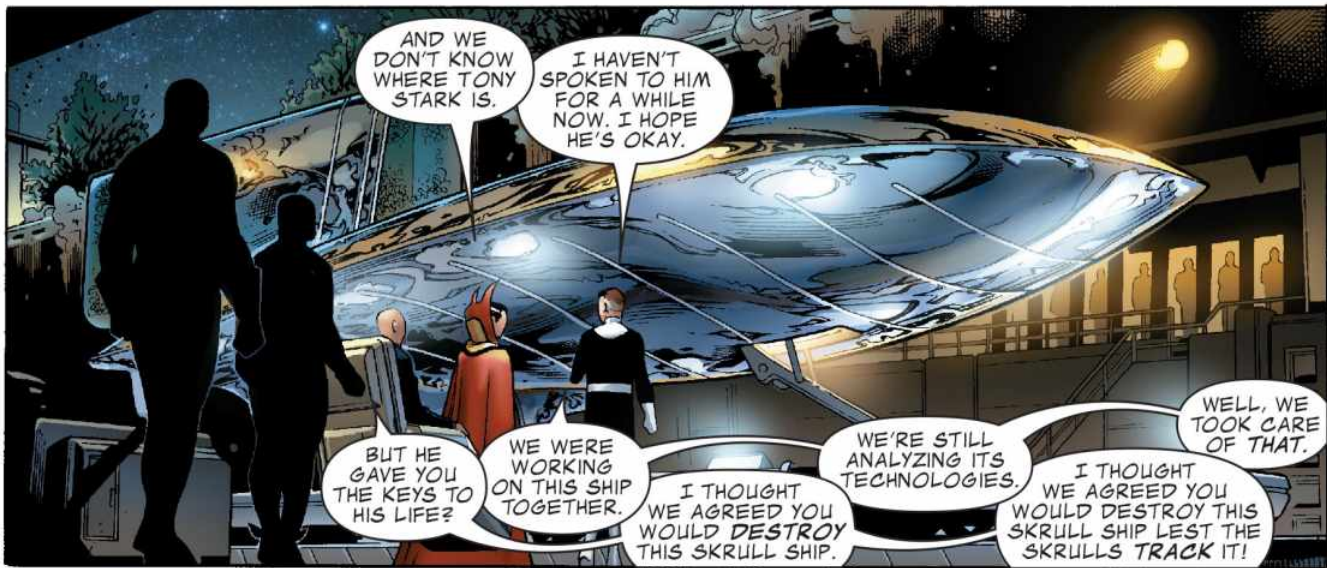
YOU DON'T
REMEMBER WHEN
ONE OF YOURS
ENTERS THE TERRIGEN
MISTS YET DOESN'T
COME OUT?

HOW
OFTEN
DOES THAT
HAPPEN?

HE DOES
NOT REMEMBER
THIS SPECIFIC
PERSON.









WELL...
THERE'S THE
ENTIRE ISLAND
OF MANHATTAN IN
THE MIDDLE OF
AN ASTEROID
BELT.



THE
BEYONDER IS
DOWN THERE.

GO TO
THE BAXTER
BUILDING.

I'M GOING
TO LAND BEFORE
HE LANDS US.

GOOD.
CALL AERIAL
REGION.



THE ATMOSPHERIC
CONDITIONS IDENTICAL
TO OUR NEW YORK--
DOWN TO THE EXACT
POLLUTION INDEX.

AMAZING



THESE
SENSATIONS--THE
NATURAL ORDER IS
BEING VIOLENTLY
DISTURBED--

RICHARDS
HAVE YOU EVER SEEN
ANYTHING LIKE THIS
BEFORE??

NO ONE HAS
EVER SEEN
ANYTHING LIKE
THIS BEFORE



WE SHOULD
GO DOWN TO THE STREET
AND TALK TO SOME OF
THESE PEOPLE. FIND OUT
WHY--

ARE NO PEOPLE
HERE

I SEE
PEOPLE ON THE
STREET.

THOSE ARE
NOT PEOPLE. THEY
HAVE NO MINDS. THEY
ARE EMPTY
VESSELS.

THERE IS
NO LIFE AURA
HERE. NONE

ROBOTS??



DO
YOU SEE
THAT?

NO.

























Shadowcat

